



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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DESERT MOWGLI

And a Deer-Man of the Scottish Highlands

MOWGLI, the boy hero of Kipling's Jungle Book, who lived in the Indian wilds with fierce animals and understood their language, is reported to have a real life counterpart in a Mowgli of the Arabian desert.

Extraordinary stories have been told about this 15-year-old lad, such as that he runs at the rate of 50 miles an hour! But there seems sober reality in the following narrative, which the Sunday Express received from a correspondent in Iraq.

Prince Al-Shaalan, ruler of the Ruwalla tribe, whose home is in the oasis-dotted Arabian desert, while out hunting recently with his party of motor-cars pursued a herd of gazelles, among which he saw a naked boy running with the animals, and keeping pace with them. The boy tripped over a boulder, and, falling with an injured leg, was captured.

Wild, terrified of human beings, incapable of speech, at first scorning any food but grass, and refusing either to wear clothes or to rest anywhere except on the bare ground, this boy utters the sounds made by startled

gazelles, and is animal-like in conduct. The Prince, unable to manage his strange capture, handed him over to the care of Dr Musa Jalbout of the Irak Petroleum Company. Three other doctors have also seen him, and the opinion is that the lad, born in the desert, and abandoned by his native mother, was adopted by a female gazelle, and received by the herd, to grow up sharing its common life.

Allowing for differences in situation and foster-mother, the case appears to agree with the many examples of infants seized in the Indian jungle by wolves for their cubs, but spared by the animals and adopted as true wolf cubs. Missionaries have repeatedly had such children brought to them, dumb, fierce, and wolf-like. Many nations have stories about children

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The Tyrant Nile

FIFTY CENTURIES OF FLOODS

THE Nile, to which Egypt owes her fertile lands, and is solely responsible for the maintenance of life there, has once more turned tyrant. Floods have raised its level to a height seldom exceeded. This has already involved the inundation of enormous tracts of cultivated lands in the Sudan, the destruction of property, and the sweeping away of landmarks, so that men cannot soon tell where one property ends and another begins.

The marking of boundaries in lands with unstable sands and soil which a flood may completely wash out, has always been a matter of grave importance in Bible lands. Says Deuteronomy, "Cursed be he that removeth his landmark."

Finding the Boundaries

It was in the making good of the damage done by the Nile in conditions like the present that mankind witnessed the first systematic application of science to industry. Ancient Egypt had long had a primitive form of geometry, but 20 centuries ago Hero of Alexandria, a man of astounding genius, gave his country a practical method whereby her people could replot their boundaries after the river had washed them away. He invented an instrument called the dioptra, which, clearly anticipating our modern theodolite, enabled lost landmarks to be re-established, and with the river returned to its bed, the planning afresh of farms and estates that the flood had rendered difficult or impossible to define.

But Egypt has still to prepare for Nile floods. To this end she has a law, passed in 1887, enabling the Government to call out every able-bodied man in the land for service in watching and strengthening the river banks, day and night, throughout the period of danger. All Egypt is today watching the rise of the river which for 50 centuries has meant so much for its property and civilisation.

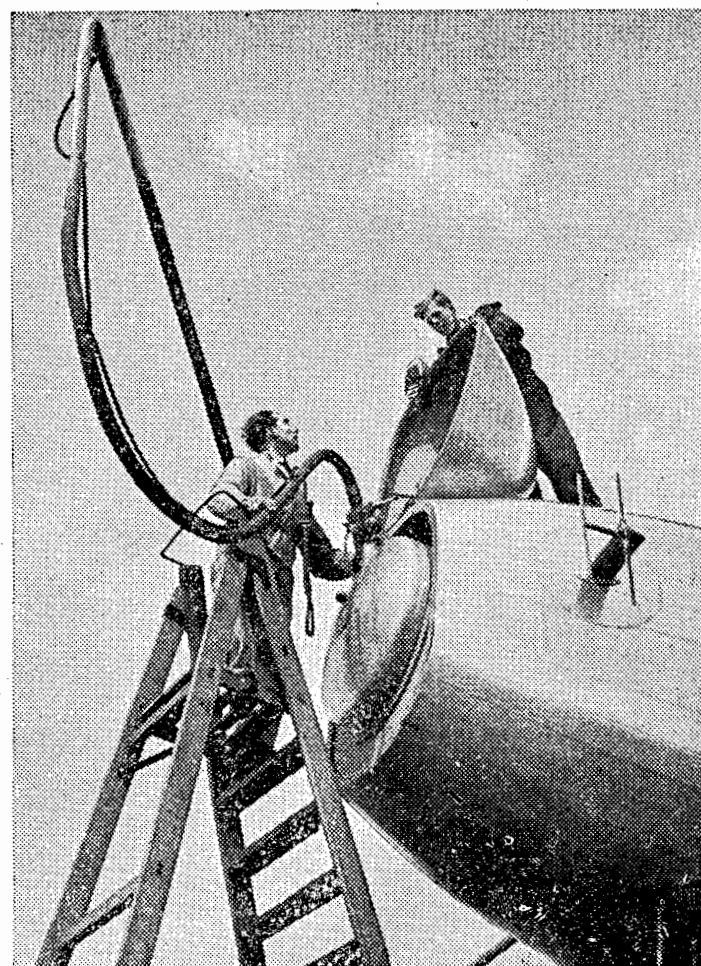
DESERT MOWGLI

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brought up by wolves or other animals, the most famous of all being that of the legendary founder of Rome, Romulus, and his twin-brother Remus.

But our own more homely annals furnish something of a parallel to the Gazelle Boy, as the reclaimed stranger is called. In Scotland many people remember the strange story of the Wild Man of Fannich. Fannich is a deer forest of some 20,000 rough and rugged acres in Ross-shire. Late in the October of a year last century a man left his home, made his way to a cave in the forest, threw off his clothes, and, wandering forth, soon found that the deer permitted him to approach and eventually to herd with them.

PETROL FOR A PLANE



Aries, the R A F Lancaster which recently flew to New Zealand in under 60 hours, has a fuel capacity of 4000 gallons, and the picture shows the reserve tank in the nose, holding 250 gallons, being filled.

OLD AND YOUNG 'ENGLAND



"Here's my fiddlestick; here's that shall make you dance!" Old Sam Bennett might have quoted Shakespeare's line to a young listener before he played a tune outside the Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon. He is 80, and has been a fiddler at Morris Dances for 60 years.

Old Fatty the Crocodile

A MONSTER DISAPPEARS

THE terror of the Njelele River in the Northern Transvaal has been outwitted at last.

He is a twelve-foot crocodile that lives in a pool 50 feet deep between the tree-shaded banks of this South African river. He is widely known as Ou Vetman, which means, literally, Old Fatty.

For years Ou Vetman has terrorised the neighbouring kraals by waiting at the drinking-places for oxen and donkeys. At times he has even ventured out of his lair to raid nearby cattle kraals.

Then the Union Government decided to build a reservoir on the Njelele River, for irrigation purposes, and one day Ou Vetman, growing more venturesome, seized one of the native workers by the arm and dragged him into the dreaded pool.

In the course of building the great Njelele Irrigation Dam, the Government engineers had to dynamite the rock in the valley. That, apparently, was too much for Ou Vetman. Where rifle bullets had failed to frighten him, the terrible detonations were too much, and the monster of the Njelele River has disappeared!

Whether Ou Vetman has been killed by the dynamite, or has permanently moved off to safer quarters is not yet known. But the native workers are joyful at his disappearance, for it means that they may now go about their business of building the great irrigation works in safety.

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S FOOD

Getting Under Way in Borneo

ONE of the most important international events this month is the second Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation which was opened at Copenhagen on September 2.

Now what is this Food and Agriculture Organisation expected to do? The tasks of the Organisation, one of the bodies linked with the United Nations, can be described very simply. It strives for international co-operation in increasing the crops all over the world. The goal of F.A.O., however, is not only to increase the supply of food but to educate people all over the world how to eat better, how to choose suitable and varied foods so as to maintain health.

In this country, thanks to the tremendous effort of the Ministry of Food, most of us have become aware of the meaning of such words as calories, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins. But outside Britain there are millions and millions of people who have still to learn how to balance their diet. As soon as hunger or shortage of food is removed, F.A.O. will start a vast educational programme to teach people what to eat.

Millions Underfed

All these great tasks of the organisation have been set out in a paper prepared a short while ago by its first Director-General, the great British nutritional scientist Sir John Boyd Orr. In this report Sir John points out that there has never really been enough food in the world; even before the war about half the people of the world (or roughly a thousand million) consumed less than 2250 calories a head per day, the amount necessary for keeping healthy. But the calorie intake is not all. The report shows that poor people rely mostly on "filler" foods—bread, potatoes, rice. To maintain health, however, it is essential to include in the daily fare a good amount of meat, fruit, and vegetables. But

WELL DONE, MICHAEL!

THE C.N. recently told of a 15-year-old Scottish boy, George Robb, who has become choir-master and organist of one of Aberdeen's biggest churches. Now comes news of his English counterpart—15-year-old Michael Terry of Cambridge, who has been appointed choir-master and organist of the parish church of Stapleford in Cambridgeshire.

Michael, who was born in Ramsgate, and had his first piano lessons from his mother when he was six, has played in most of the Cambridge churches, and hopes one day to become organist at one of the colleges. Music, however, does not absorb all his time; his hobbies are drawing, carpentry, and photography.

Rocks on the Ship

WHEN HMS Swiftsure berthed at Chatham recently Blackpool's Mayor and Town Clerk were there with two cwts of Blackpool rock to welcome her.

The rock was a gift from the people of Blackpool who, during the war, had "adopted" Swiftsure, a 10,000-ton cruiser. A stick of rock was given to each officer and member of the crew, and we may be sure it was a popular gift.

people with little money throughout the world have not been able to afford this.

Sir John shows that one of the amazing results of the war, as far as Britain is concerned, was that with little or no unemployment, and bigger wage packets, the consumption of the better foods has increased tremendously. We are now eating one-third more eggs than in 1938. The use of milk has gone up two-fifths, and in the case of the poorest has doubled.

More and Better Food

There can be no doubt whatever that the kind and quality of food one eats directly affects one's health. In countries where the diet is adequate the length of average life may be 70 years; in the worst-fed communities it is 30 to 40 years.

The job which is facing the Food and Agriculture Organisation is not easy. It has to organise greater food production throughout the world; it has to see to it that meat and vegetables and fruit are produced in the right quantities; it has to teach people to eat food which would help them maintain good health. These are immense tasks which F.A.O. will not be able to perform without the active help of all the Governments which are members of the Organisation.

And more than that is needed. International help to the poorly-fed countries is, according to Sir John, very important. Such countries should get money to buy better food to enable them to work more efficiently and in turn buy more goods. This, Sir John hopes, may make them better customers on world markets and help the great industrial nations such as Britain and the U.S. to keep their factories going.

Children's Houses

AN experiment recently started in the North of England shows how enthusiastically boys and girls welcome having a place of their own where they can work and play in the evenings.

The first Children's House was formed in Stockport, when two shops were converted and rapidly became a most popular place. It was not intended to be a highly organised club, but to be open to children who could go there to play, sew, paint, do woodwork, and have a bath. The idea was to give children of the neighbourhood a chance to enjoy certain features of home life which they would not have at home, to feel it was their own house and to take a pride in looking after it.

A second Children's House has been opened in Chorlton-on-Medlock, where a derelict house and shop have been taken over. It is now open every Monday evening for some thirty youngsters who live near by. The younger ones come for the first part of the evening, the older ones later on. It is hoped to find an ex-Serviceman and his wife to live permanently in the house, which could then be available every evening.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO which, as recently stated in the C.N., has passed from the Chartered Company to the Colonial Office, will for some time be a responsibility for the British taxpayer.

Borneo, like Malaya, suffered severely from the Japanese occupation and much has to be put into running order throughout its 30,000 square miles. For instance, a plague of millions of rats is threatening the next rice crop, and poison is being hurriedly imported.

Before the war Borneo exported 20,000 tons of rubber yearly, but as yet only a few hundred tons have been shipped. Nor has the important trade in timber begun to recover.

A temporary light railway service has been started, with army jeeps supplying the place of engines. Third-class passengers perch on the top of the loaded truck while the first-class passengers travel in the comparative comfort of the jeep. Travel can be a hazardous business as large boulders frequently fall on to the track. When one is encountered on a down grade the brakes of the jeep are unable to bring the five-ton "train" to a halt. On these occasions, writes a correspondent, passengers and driver bale out, leaving the train to its fate.

YOUR OWN C.N. AND ONE FOR YOUR FRIEND

IN the past five years the C.N. has received numerous letters and telephone calls from disappointed people who were unable to obtain the newspaper. But, unfortunately, nothing could be done to help them.

SOON, however, there is to be available for newspapers an increased amount of newsprint and so, beginning with the issue dated October 5, 1946, there will be more copies of the C.N. in the shops and on the bookstalls. But newsprint is still strictly rationed and newsagents will not be able to order enough copies for chance sales.

THEREFORE it is important that all who wish to obtain the C.N. should place an order with their newsagent without delay. At the same time the Editor asks readers to tell their friends who have been disappointed in the past that an order placed now will ensure a copy of the C.N. regularly each week.

No Place Like Home

A SMALLHOLDER at North Strome in the Scottish Highlands borrowed a horse from a friend at Achmore, which is on the south side of Loch Carron near Strome ferry. The horse was brought across by ferryboat and on several occasions it found its way back to the pier and tried to return on the boat.

Not long ago the station-master at Strome ferry discovered the horse waiting for the road gate to be opened—it had swum home across the loch!

WORLD NEWS REEL

ADVENTURE! Two former R.A.F. officers have flown from West Hartlepool to Salisbury, Rhodesia, in an 11-year-old monoplane with open cockpits and no wireless. The flight took 26 days.

Giraffes, zebras, monkeys, and reptiles are among a cargo on the way from Kenya to Bristol and Manchester zoos.

A submarine telephone cable has been laid since the war from this country to Germany. About 230 miles long, it is the longest cable between Britain and the Continent.

STILL FIRST. E. McDonald Bailey, the Jamaican sprinter, equalled the European 100 metres record (10.3 seconds) at Gothenburg in Sweden recently.

The Argentine Government has purchased the American-owned United Telephone Company of the River Plate for a sum which is approximately 95,000,000 U.S. dollars.

ANTARCTIC SCIENCE. The Australian Government has been asked by scientists to establish research stations in the Antarctic.

A Chinese fisherman swam 75 miles between two Hawaiian islands in 53 hours one minute.

HOME NEWS REEL

SAVING COAL. Our railways are to convert 1200 of their locomotives into oil-burners with an expected saving of over 1,400,000 tons of coal a year.

A group of archaeologists are organising a big treasure hunt to take place round Mildenhall in Suffolk after the harvest. Aircraft will be used to survey the land.

Six full-time scholarships at the London School of Economics are being given by the Transport and General Workers' Union to members, for a course of trade Union Studies, beginning early in October.

GOLDEN EGG. A Dundee woman found a gold ring inside a hen's egg.

Since May over 2,000,000 passengers have travelled on the electric railway on Southend's mile-long pier.

Bovingdon, in Hertfordshire, is to be London's fourth civil airport. The others are Heathrow, Northolt, and Croydon.

GOOD RECORD. A widow sold an old gramophone to a scrap dealer at Hucknall in Nottinghamshire. In it he found 152 pound notes which he has since returned to her.

Road authorities in East Suffolk are using a new type of road-making machine which works so quickly that traffic can drive immediately behind it on the new surface.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

SCOUTS IN SWITZERLAND. A party of Wallasey Scouts who recently spent several days in Switzerland, took part in the celebration of Swiss National Day. They stayed at the International Scout Chalet at Kandersteg.

The Scout Silver Cross has been awarded to 12-year-old Robert White, of the 60th South-West Herts Troop, for his gallantry in saving two children from drowning in the Grand Union Canal.

As part of the Link-Up Scheme between Scout Troops in Britain and other countries, the 1st Totteridge (Herts) recently entertained a Troop of French Scouts in camp. During their stay the

ALL INDIAN. The Viceroy of India recently administered the oaths of allegiance, of office, and of secrecy to seven members of Pandit Nehru's interim Government and thus, for the first time since the British connection with India began, the country has an all-Indian Cabinet.

A new all-plastic house designed by a Berlin architect can be erected inside eight hours without help from either plumbers or carpenters. It is fireproof, extremely light, and costs £325.

The Clan Macaulay recently berthed in the Clyde with the biggest cargo of eating apples Glasgow has ever received—169,000 cases.

General Smuts is to present to Mr Attlee gold worth £1,000,000 collected in South Africa for the People of Britain Fund.

In the recent plebiscite in Greece about 70 per cent of the voters were in favour of the return of King George.

Eight scholarships for any university in Great Britain for 1946-47 have been granted by the British Council to Dutch students.

Beginning this month, Sweden is during the next year to export a million tons of Lapland iron ore to the United States.

Bembridge, Isle of Wight, lifeboat rescued a party of holiday-makers, including three children, from an open boat after their distress signal—a shirt tied to an oar—had been sighted.

FEWER M.P.s. Proposals have been made for reducing the M.P.s representing the 28 London boroughs from 60 to 40.

Walter Passmore, the singer and actor, who died recently, had an active stage career lasting over half a century. He was a famous player in Gilbert and Sullivan Opera.

Britain has ordered from the U.S. six 60-ton Boeing Strato-Cruisers, which can fly at 400 m.p.h., for the British trans-Atlantic service. The airliners are double-deckers and will cost about £1,500,000.

WELCOME HELP. Several parties of students from France have come to Britain to help with the harvest and potato-lifting.

Dr H. Granville-Barker, the famous playwright and Shakespearean authority, and one of the greatest figures in the history of the English theatre, died recently in Paris at the age of 68.

L AGAIN. Tests for learner drivers are to be resumed this autumn. Candidates to be driving examiners will be selected by a board and will take a course at a police driving school.

visitors and their hosts were entertained to tea in London by the French Ambassador.

MODEL TOWN. During the winter months young members of the Y.M.C.A. at Wellington in Shropshire are to build a scale model of their town as it is planned for the future.

The formation of Senior Scout sections is now officially authorised, following the success of an experimental scheme for the training of Scouts over 15.

Delegates from all over the world are in France for the Eleventh Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.



The King and His Daughters

A happy glimpse of His Majesty with the two Princesses—a new picture taken in the garden of Royal Lodge, Windsor.

Photograph by Studio Lisa

PLASTIC CANOES

A PLASTIC canoe which is almost unsinkable is being produced at Killecraggan in Scotland, following almost a year of experiments.

The craft has such great buoyancy that it will remain afloat even though completely water-logged, and it is claimed that its hull will withstand the most violent pounding of heavy seas.

A one-man canoe of the kayak type, it is priced at less than £5. It is collapsible and folds into a package 23 inches by 15 inches; the shell weighs less than two pounds.

Most of the new canoes will be exported. The Great Lakes Transport Inc. of Canada, has already ordered 4000 of them.

British Books in Switzerland

AN exhibition of over 1200 British books, arranged by the British Council, opened in Berne on September 3 and will later be shown in Basle, Zurich, Geneva, and Lausanne.

The exhibition is mainly of books published during the war, but there is also a group of 73 fine and rare books illustrating the development of the craft of printing in Britain, the first exhibit being an original leaf of The Chronicles of England printed by Caxton in 1480.

Tale of a Truck

A WAR-SCARRED and very battered truck has just been making a triumphal tour of some of the native schools of New Zealand. Bought with the coppers contributed by Maori children, it was given the name of Tohu Aroha—Token of Love—and, while attached to the Maori battalion, became the most famous mobile canteen in the Middle East.

In North Africa it went with the troops to and fro across the desert. Never far from where the shells were falling, it was pressed into commission for ambulance work, was dive-bombed by Stukas,

A Walk to the Moon

It would take a long time to walk to the Moon, but enough timber is cut every year in the United States to make a board walk which would bridge the distance of nearly 240,000 miles.

Some 30,000 million board feet are cut in the year, which would suffice to make a board walk 30 feet wide and an inch thick. Half this material goes not into board walks but into the framework and the accessories of dwellings, factories, and public buildings; the rest mainly into boxes, furniture, matches, and toys. Wood pulp goes into paper for newspapers, books, and magazines.

TOMATO CATCHUP

IN a London garden curious movements near a tomato plant drew the attention of a watcher, who discovered that a trespassing cat was daintily nibbling the fruit, eating the pulp, and carefully licking the escaping juice.

Had not this robbery been actually witnessed, all Scotland Yard, with the wise men of Kew Gardens added, would have been unable to find the culprit. Who would ever dream that a cat would be tempted by a red-ripe tomato?

and riddled with shell splinters.

Patched up, Tohu Aroha reached Tripoli with the triumphant army, and was shipped to Italy with the Maori battalion. Through the deep snow and mud of the Italian winter it forged its way up the peninsula to the Lombardy Plain, dispensing cups of hot tea to the weary men just back from the battle-front.

And now the veteran, full of wounds and of honours, and secure in the affections of the whole Maori people, is bearing its hard-won laurels triumphantly through its native land.

ALLOTMENT—A LOT SAVED

FORRY Lancashire women have formed Britain's first Women's Allotment Association at Preston, and have been busy gathering in their summer crops. They declare that the produce cultivated has meant a saving to each member of ten shillings a week.

During the winter they will attend lectures and demonstrations on such important matters as the clamping of potatoes and storing root produce.

THE BLUE WHALE'S EXTRA RATION

IN our pressing need for oils and fats, and more particularly for whale oil, some credit should be given to the Krill.

The Krill is a large shrimp which is a sort of priority ration to the Blue Whale, and is believed to have a marked effect on the amount of oil the Blue Whale offers us. From a Blue Whale 70 or 80 barrels of oil are extracted, and much larger quantities have been recorded. It is the prize catch of the whalers, a stupendous creature from 80 to 100 feet long.

Yet all that magnificence of length and girth is reached at the age of six years, and is supported not by what the whale hunts but by what finds a way into its ever-open mouth. Into that mouth fall not only uncounted millions of the tiniest creatures that float, but also the larger ones, of which the Krill is probably the largest. The Krills rise from the warmer waters underneath to the cold Antarctic surface and then drift helplessly along in shoals.

LIGHT IN THE MINES

THE most attractive fluorescent lighting which most of us have seen in shops and cinemas is now being tried with success in collieries. Fluorescent lamps which cast no shadows were recently installed at Binley Colliery in Warwickshire.

The Mystery of a Moustache

ABOUT a hundred years ago an unknown artist played a joke with a portrait of Johann van Riebeeck, the man who founded the first settlement at the Cape in 1652.

Before leaving for the Dutch East Indies Van Riebeeck commissioned his portrait, and this picture in due course was hung in the Old Town House at Cape Town.

Last century it was decided to have all the pictures in the Old Town House cleaned and touched up. An unknown artist was given the job.

Not until many years later did someone notice that Van Rie-

beeck's portrait must have been altered—it showed the great man's moustache turned up at the ends, whereas all the paintings in Holland and elsewhere showed him with a turned-down moustache.

Critics had declared that this was not Van Riebeeck at all. But recently the Director of the South African National Gallery cleared up the mystery. Microscopic examination of the painting showed that the original had had a turned-down moustache. That unknown artist, with his own ideas on the way a moustache should be trained, had altered its direction!

GOLDEN FISH

IN 1937 the electricity works at Finchley was bothered by mosquitoes, so a number of goldfish, which thrive on the eggs of the insect, were placed in an ornamental pond there at a cost of £35. The goldfish multiplied. So much so that quantities of them have been sold to dealers, and sales have realised nearly £400.

Useful Eucalyptus

GENERALLY associated in our minds with colds and influenza, the eucalyptus trees of Australia are playing a big and increasing part in present-day manufactures.

The range of their many useful products in the form of oil and timber for industry has been extended recently by improved processes for manufacturing paper from the short fibres of the trees.

A considerable amount of paper now being made in Tasmania is made entirely from eucalyptus pulp, while, mixed with other wood pulp, it is helping materially to increase paper supplies.

It has now been found that eucalyptus products can also be used successfully in the manufacture of certain plastic materials.

FOR NORTHERN RAMBLERS

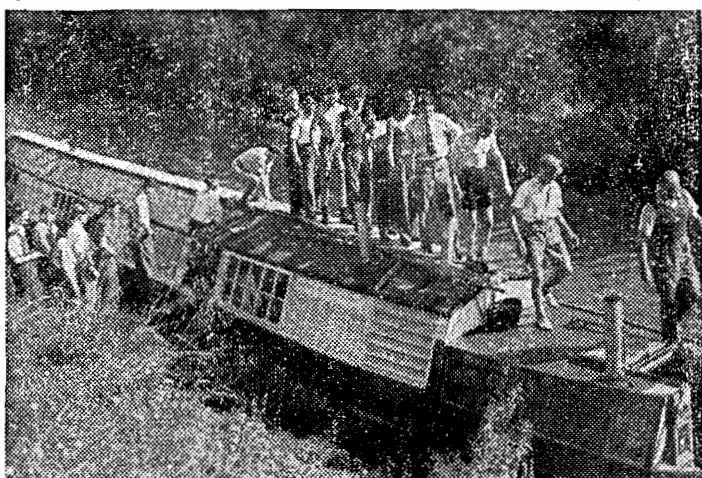
JUST under 50 miles from Leeds and Bradford and convenient for North Lancashire and Tees-side, The Rookery, a new youth hostel in Bishopdale, was opened recently.

The Rookery is a 17th-century mansion standing in its own grounds, and is five miles from the nearest bus route at Buckden or Aysgarth. It is well placed for exploring the beauties of Upper Wensleydale. The West Riding Group of the Youth Hostels Association now have 15 hostels with over 800 beds available to members.



A Cloud of White Wings

A marine traffic block occurred at Newport, California, when 138 sailing boats took part in a race. A light breeze kept many of the craft grouped together, providing the unusual spectacle seen in our picture.



A Floating Classroom

This barge is used by boys from Bourneville to explore the waterways of the Severn and the canals between Birmingham and Tewkesbury. The trips are a holiday extension of the continuation school which the boys attend, and when the barge is moored they camp in tents while making visits to places of interest in the district. The interior of the barge is fitted as a classroom for study while on the move.

HOLIDAYS FOR THE EXILES

AMERICANS, Poles, Germans, Ukrainians, British Military staff, and Quaker relief workers have together made holidays possible for the seven to fourteen-year-old children of the Displaced Persons now living at Goslar in Hanover, Germany.

The Friends took over a former transit camp for refugees at Bündheim, and Ukrainian workmen decorated the rooms in pale lemon and blue. The dining-room is gay with travel posters from England, and there is a large playroom for wet days. A Polish warden with a German wife was installed; two of the maids are Germans and one is a stateless Russian. The British Medical Officer of the local Army Leave Centre is on call.

The first children to come for 12 days' holiday were 29 Ukrainians. "There was great excitement as each one discovered his own bed with a proper mattress, sheets, pillow-cases, and eider-downs," writes one of the Friends in charge. "Each one has his own towel and a piece of soap as well. Many of these children have never had a bed or towel

to themselves before, and it is one of the first things they wrote home about. It was interesting to see how each one made his own little corner with photos pinned above the bed and coloured pictures of the Virgin Mary on the locker, and bunches of flowers picked on the hills. One camp supplied beautifully made, simple wooden crosses to hang in each room."

At ten o'clock each fine morning an Army wagon arrives to take the children and their food up to the nearby mountains for the day. They go to a different place each day, and make a camp-fire, cook their own meals, and play games. In the evening there is a hot supper in the hostel, followed by painting, singing, and other entertainments.

With the help of the American-Polish Welfare Section and the Military Government it has been possible to give the children a diet of 3500 calories a day. The children are always hungry and appear to need every bit of this. It is hoped that the holiday and the good food will build them up in strength for the winter.

Rubber is Coming Back Again

No more synthetic rubber is to come from the United States, and after October only natural rubber will be imported for the making of tyres, balls, and the thousand and one things for which it is necessary.

The history of rubber goes back beyond the days of Columbus. When he made his second visit to America some natives of Hayti were seen playing with balls that bounced, and some of these curios were brought back to Europe. The substance with which they made their bouncing balls the natives called "caoutchouc," a word that still appears in our English dictionaries.

In 1770 the great English scientist Joseph Priestley obtained some of this substance, and used it as a means of rubbing out pencil marks. This is how the English word "rubber" originated.

Rubber comes from a juice found in several kinds of trees, vines, and other plants in various parts of the world. Its main source, however, is the hevea tree, which grows in South America, particularly in Brazil.

In 1873 a consignment of hevea seeds was obtained from South America and planted at Kew Gardens. Only a few little trees grew, but six of these were sent out to India, to form the beginning of a hevea plantation. A few years later the English planter, Sir Henry Wickham, obtained a much bigger consignment of hevea seeds, had them planted at Kew, and supplied 2000 of the resulting seedlings to Ceylon, Malaya, Sumatra, Java, and other Asiatic lands. From these parts we received little or no rubber during the war with Japan; but now we are to receive supplies again.

September 14, 1946

Table Fare of Other Days

THE scarcity of grouse reported from practically all the moors that form the homes of these truly British birds affects the owners of shooting-rights more than our general dinner-table supplies. Considered simply as a source of human food, the reduced number of birds available cannot be a matter of grave importance. The case was very different in days that are gone, however.

The time has been when any reduction in the supply of birds for table was little short of a calamity for our ancestors. Fresh beef, pork, and mutton disappeared in the autumn, and for six months each year only salted meat—often unsound—was available. So fresh food had to be sought elsewhere, almost any type of bird or animal serving so long as it was eatable.

During the long season of salt meats our forefathers ate the flesh of whales, porpoises, and swordfishes, with everything else obtainable from sea or river, down to the insignificant minnow. Served with the appropriate sauces, even the lowly hedgehog and the little squirrel found honoured places at the baron's winter table. The chief source of fresh food, however, was birds, and some that were eaten would shock us now.

Not only were there the domestic birds and pigeons, but the regular menu included ospreys, bustards, herons, cranes, pheasants, swans, and peacocks, to say nothing of starlings, crows, magpies, and sparrows. These were eaten because, faced with six months of imperfectly salted meat, our forebears lacked also such food as potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, and other health-sustaining crops, which lay centuries ahead of knowledge and cultivation. So everybody was in constant danger of that dreaded scourge, scurvy, which fresh food alone could avert.

THE PLANE CAR

EVEN in the United States the supply of motor-cars is not equal to the demand. But a resourceful American without "transportation" is never at a loss for long!

Technical-Sergeant Clyde O. Peterson was stationed at an airfield in Alaska where there was a quantity of salvaged parts of aircraft, so he set to work and built



himself the neat little runabout shown in the picture. The body was a petrol tank from a big plane, and the wheels were tail wheels. The windscreen was on a fighter, and the chassis was contrived from parts of a little observation machine. The single-cylinder engine was the charger in a transport aircraft, and it gives the car a top speed of 40 m.p.h. with a petrol consumption of about 200 m.p.g.

The Editor's Table

LET FREEDOM FLOURISH

FREEDOM is something close to the hearts of all men—something for which all men strive, or having attained it, strive to maintain. And Mr Churchill, when he was installed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, had some words to say on the subject which should be heeded by all.

Speaking with all the authority of a tried and true champion of freedom, he again appealed to men to let freedom flourish in our present world by knowing about it and by using it.

"Freedom," said Thomas Carlyle, "is the one purport, wisely aimed at, or unwisely, of all man's strugglings, toilings, and sufferings on this earth." We came out of our testing-time in war with a new vision of what freedom means, not only for ourselves, but for all men—a freedom in personal as well as national affairs.

A new freedom in travel and trade is overdue among the peoples. Men want to move about the earth in friendly company, passing across the frontiers without let or hindrance and staying in other countries without fear. Half the world is still darkened with fear and suspicion, and the channels of free intercourse are clogged with far too many regulations.

The trader and merchant need a new charter of liberty. Trade follows freedom. All the world is short of goods which people wish to have, and yet the world is capable of producing more than enough for everyone to have a fair share. That is the paradox of our modern life which freedom of trade and travel can help to solve.

Let freedom flourish also in the things of the mind. Beauty in art and literature is an international possession designed for the inspiration of men regardless of race, language, or country. Science and discovery, writing and printing, painting and sculpture, are freedom's agents, and they speak of liberty unconfined.

Let freedom flourish above all in speech. Our democratic ways are founded on the right to speak without fear or favour, and no foundation of lasting good will can be secure without this right.

*If we have whispered truth,
Whisper no longer;
Speak as the tempest does,
Stern and stronger,
Still be the tomes of truth
Louder and firmer.*

This is a challenge to the world's statesmen now gathered in Paris, but it is also a guide to the ordinary men and women of the world as they meet friends of other nations; and not least to the youth of Britain looking out on a world needing the comradeship of all peoples who believe in letting freedom flourish.

The Battle of the Roads

THE toll of the roads is increasing. In July there were 437 road deaths, including 174 pedestrians of whom 76 were children under fifteen. The total number of killed and injured was 15,177 for the month, figures for both being in excess of those for June.

In more than a fifth of the fatal road accidents motor-cycles were involved. The drivers of these vehicles are mostly young, and sometimes we think that some of them do not realise the dangers and the risks, not only to their own lives but to those of others, which careless motor-cycling involves.

Meanwhile, all pedestrians should bear in mind the wisdom of the slogan

*At the herb, halt.
Eyes right, eyes left.
If all clear, quick march!*

PROM NIGHTS

THE Promenade Concerts lose none of their old attraction. A visitor to the Albert Hall on any night of the present season has found himself, as of yore, one of a vast throng intent on enjoying a musical feast, with full awareness of taking part in a great occasion.

And an evening at the Proms is a great occasion. It is almost impossible to take a detached interest in the scene. It has a magic quality, and everyone seems caught, and held, by it. Those keen promenaders in the arena, ever generous in their applause, the tiers upon tiers of listeners above them intent on the witchery of sound distilled for their delight—they are all taking part just as much as the orchestra.

Sir Henry Wood, whose sculptured bust surveys the scene like a vigilant master of ceremonies, would rejoice to know that his beloved Proms are as popular as ever.

JUST AN IDEA

The ideal way to self help is to help others.

Under the



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If windmills have
served their turn

A GROUP of British film people are to shoot jungle scenes in Brazil. We shall be glad to hear their reports.

GIRL drivers of the Official Car Service can buy forage caps for walking out. Shoes would be more useful.

THE Modern poet writes free verse. But wants paying for it.

A LADY found an English sixpence in a street in Amsterdam. She had gone away for change.

THINGS SAID

YOUNG men and women cannot be held responsible for membership of the Hitler Youth, and similar movements, at a time when they had no choice in the matter. *John Hynd*

SOCIAL prosperity besides social security should be our goal. For that there is nothing but hard work.

John Wilmot, Minister of Supply

NOW is the time for all Indians in any authority with any influence to show by their good sense and restraint that they are worthy of their country, and that their country is worthy of the freedom it is to receive.

The Viceroy of India

REMEMBER the 35,000 ruins that mark Greece as a result of the war. The voice of the ruins speaks more eloquently than anything I can say.

M. Pipinelis at the Paris Conference

US Historian's Tribute

THE old home to every American.

This was how the Professor of American History at Columbia University described Britain the other day in an address to 25 of the inter-change teachers, of whom we wrote last week.

Dr Allan Nevins is here on leave from his university to direct the US Information Service in this country, and he has obviously enjoyed his new experiences.

In his view, he stated, Britain had produced more genius and character per square mile than any other country. Others, he admitted, had produced as much genius, but had not combined with it so much character, culturally speaking.

The British people will thank Dr Nevins for his tribute, but to judge from him and most Americans we have met in recent years, this country has a promising rival in this field.

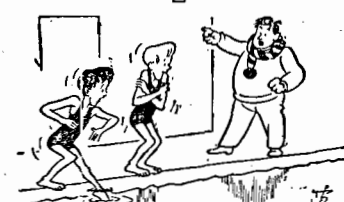
Editor's Table

THE British do not tip liberally enough in France. Someone should give them the tip.

A MAN allows bees to sting him to cure his rheumatism. Takes pains to get better.

MOST trees have short names. But they can be cut down.

MAN Robbed Thirty Yards from a Bank, says a headline. Thirty yards of what?



ALL children should go in for swimming. They get cold shivering on the brink.

Battle of Britain Sunday

AT this time six years ago the fate of Britain was being decided in the skies above South-Eastern England. The Glorious Few of R A F Fighter Command were decisively defeating Hitler's invading aerial hordes.

Each year it is our privilege to honour the memory of those who then made the great sacrifice for us, by celebrating Battle of Britain Sunday on the Sunday nearest to September 15. This year, for the first time since 1940, the fifteenth is on a Sunday, and on that day our heroes will be remembered in all churches throughout the land, and collections will be taken for the R A F Benevolent Fund.

Sunday, September 15, has been chosen, too, for the unveiling of a new inscription on the R A F Memorial by the Thames "in remembrance of those men and women of the air forces of every part of the British Commonwealth and Empire who gave their lives, 1939-45."

Autumn's Arrival

THEN came the Autumn all in yellow clad, As though he joyed in his plentiful store, Laden with fruits that made him laugh full glad That he had banished hunger.

Spenser

TAKING STEPS

ON September 11, if all goes well, the River Mole, as it flows gently below the popular green-and-white slopes of Box Hill in Surrey, will meet distinguished company; no less than the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, Mr Chuter Ede.

It will be no chance encounter. Near Burford Bridge the track by which the pilgrims of old used to travel from Winchester to Canterbury crosses the river. Some years ago the stepping-stones were washed away, but Mr Ede, whose pride in his native Surrey is second to no man's, has paid for the mending of this breach in the Pilgrim's Way, and he and Mr Attlee will be first across in the re-opening ceremony.

Doubtless there will be many witnesses of this new pilgrim's progress; and doubtless Mr Attlee and Mr Ede (used to much more difficult crossings) will take it all in their stride, though not, we hope, on this occasion "leaving no stone unturned." Certainly as Ministers they are both old hands at "taking steps."

Boast Not

BOAST not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Book of Proverbs

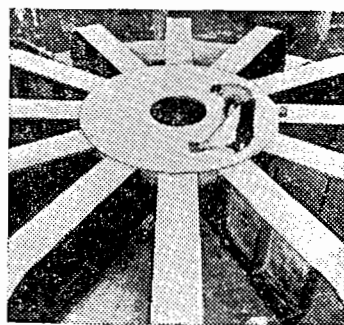
A Garden Ship Memorial

THE world's greatest liner, our splendid Queen Elizabeth, is nearing the end of her reft. By the middle of October, if all goes according to plan, she will return to sea to begin the duties for which she was designed, those of a swift and mighty ship for passenger traffic.

Hitherto, having first sailed in secrecy from her birthplace on the Clyde, during the early days of the war, to equip herself in New York as a troopship, she has been engaged solely in carrying the armed forces of the Allies, first to war, and afterwards to demobilisation.

In the second half of last century there was just as much interest in the London-built Great Eastern, then the world's biggest ship. The first of our ocean-going giants, she had a lasting memorial such as the Queen Elizabeth cannot be expected to rival. Proud indeed were our ancestors of the Great Eastern, whose dimensions they thought could never be exceeded. A leading man of the age, and one of our greatest judges, Chief Baron Pollock, constructed, as the chief feature of the beautiful grounds of his home at Hatton, in Middlesex, a walk of the exact length of the ship. It measured, as she did, precisely 692 feet.

Giant Generator



The man in this picture is cleaning up the last of three new hydro-electric generators built in America for the great Dnieper Dam, which was destroyed during the war. The Russians have received the first two generators and expect to begin producing electricity in December.

FILM OF PRINCE CHARLIE

THE '45 Rebellion is coming to life again in the famous Highland glen at Glenfinnan, where a film is being made of the adventures of Bonnie Prince Charlie, with David Niven in that role. Pains have been taken that everything should be correct in detail. A replica has been built of the bothy in which the Young Pretender slept shortly after his landing in Scotland. The district of Lochaber has been combed for tall, broad-shouldered men of Highland type. Shepherds (preferably red-headed) and old crofters also have been much in demand.

Encamped at Annat, near Fort William, have been 1000 soldiers who grew beards and whiskers for their parts of Prince Charlie's clansmen in the film—with a motley collection of Highland black cattle and the small Highland ponies to complete the effect.

A MARRIAGE OF POETS



ON September 12 a service is being held in St Marylebone Church, in London, to commemorate the marriage there, just a century earlier, of two young poets—Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning.



Little could that young couple have dreamed, and little indeed would they have cared, on that September day in 1846, that each was destined for enduring fame, and that their love story would eventually take its place among the great romances of the world.

Robert Browning was a London boy, born in Camberwell, then a mere village. He had a happy home life with kind parents, who encouraged their son in his literary and other artistic leanings. When still quite young Robert was fortunate enough to be able to travel the Continent, and this broadened his outlook, and helped his literary work.

Elizabeth Barrett, who was born in Durham, had a harder life, her father, Edward Moulton Barrett, being unduly austere and repressive. She was never really strong, and when she lost her favourite brother through drowning at Torquay her grief was so great that it was thought she would die. But poetry was her solace and her anchor, and her health gradually improved.

Then came the meeting with Robert Browning at the Barretts' home in Wimpole Street, London, because Elizabeth had mentioned Robert in one of her poems, and Robert called to thank her for the honour.

When they were married the happy couple went to live in Italy, where they remained for

the rest of Mrs Browning's life. During those fifteen years in Italy the Brownings were true and constant lovers in every sense of those words.

Robert Browning's poems are sometimes a little difficult to understand, but they are all bright, happy, and optimistic, reflecting a grand view of the glory of life.

Elizabeth showed her happiness, too, in the poems which she wrote after meeting Robert; but her poor health gave them sometimes a sterner note, like:

Life treads on life, and heart on heart:

We press too close in church and mart

To keep a dream or grave apart.

Through their poems both Robert and Elizabeth Browning found an immortal place in English literature; through the pathos and beauty of their love story and their constancy through mortal trouble they found an abiding place in all hearts.

To honour their memory an appeal is being made for funds to erect a Browning chapel in the church where they were married. Lord Kennet, care of the Midland Bank, 19 Marylebone High Street, W1, is the treasurer, and supporters of the appeal include that great poetry-lover, Lord Wavell, and the poet-laureate, John Masefield.

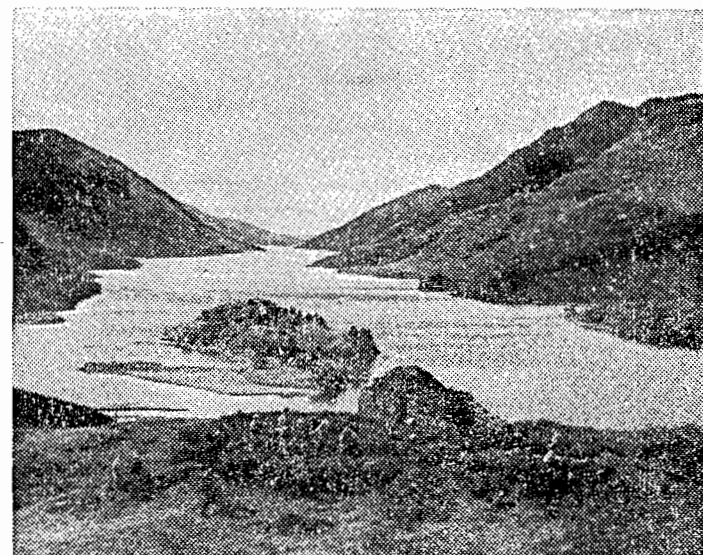
A Crime to Wear Cotton!

IN these days when cotton goods are so scarce, it is difficult to believe that our ancestors regarded cotton as an alien enemy, to be kept, like pestilence, from our shores.

For many centuries our national fortunes were based on wool, which was our main export; and when the Flemings taught us to make cloth superior to the coarse grades that we had formerly produced, woollen cloths became an additional export little less valuable to our national trade. Our farmers, therefore, who reared the sheep,

our exporters of wool, our manufacturers of cloth, and the Government, which profited by taxing all, hated cotton as a possible rival to our staple trade.

So right down the ages until, indeed, the 18th century was well advanced, it was an offence, punishable with a fine of £20—then a great sum—to import cotton; it was a crime even to wear a cotton garment. This state of affairs continued down to days when it was at last shown to be profitable to add cotton to the trades of our land.



SCOTLAND

Loch Shiel, Glenfinnan, scene of the landing of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745

OPERATION OPERA

MMUSIC-LOVERS have a great treat available; the C M F San Carlo Opera Company has just begun a six weeks' season at Covent Garden. But it is entertainment with a special thrill for thousands of ex-Service men and women who had their first taste of opera in Italian theatres during the war.

For the C M F San Carlo Opera Company is a child of the British Army, the C M F standing for Central Mediterranean Forces, the first provided with officially-sponsored opera.

The story of British Army Opera in Italy is as romantic as most operas, beginning in the early days in Sicily, when the Area Commander, Brigadier B. Cripps, urged British and American welfare officers to get opera for his troops, starved of entertainment. Let us call it Operation Opera!

Many and big were the obstacles. The Bellini Opera House at Catania had a 40-foot shell-hole in its roof, caused by one of our naval guns; its windows were broken, there was no heating, water, or electricity, and practically no costumes or scenery. Add to all this the fact that experienced singers were not available, that members of orchestras were scattered and in many cases had got rid of their instruments, and finally that there were no funds, and it is easy to understand that Operation Opera was a mighty undertaking.

Army authorities, however, thrive on difficulties. The U S Air Force came to the rescue, and singers were flown from towns as far away as Palermo, 200 miles distant. An intensive search for costumes was begun. Scenery was fashioned from brown paper. Money shortage was got over by artistes and

musicians agreeing generously to hope for the best from the box office returns.

That, of course, was not the end of the trouble. Rehearsals, for instance, were a nightmare, for many of the chorus were quite new to their job, and the cold was so intense that every half-hour or so the orchestra had to stop playing and run around the theatre in order to restore circulations. Gradually, however, all obstacles were overcome and the great opening night arrived; the doors were opened for La Bohème.

That first night foreshadowed failure; only 400 out of 1600 seats were sold! But the second night was different. It rained. The House Full notices went up, and stayed up!

When Naples fell, the great San Carlo Opera House was taken over, and for over two and a half years a non-stop season of opera has been run there. Since that day, in September 1943, when Italian Opera first made its bow to the troops in Sicily, over four million members of the Allied forces have passed through the box offices of opera houses in Italy run by the British Army, as well as a vast number of Italian citizens.

In giving opera back to Italy the British have done a great deal to restore good relations between the two countries, and it is as a gesture of good will and appreciation that the C M F San Carlo Opera Company is here.

BEDTIME CORNER

THE COW'S LAMENT

"THEY tell me I'm lazy, but how Can they say it," wept old Mrs Cow, "When each hour, to their knowing, My jaws have been going, From my very young days until now!"

The Stars and the Daisies

ONCE upon a time a great many little Stars lived up in the sky. Their father was the Sun and their mother was the Moon.

Usually these little Stars were very good, and liked to help lighten the sky and so make the earth brighter, but one night they were cross and would not shine.

Then Mother Moon called up from the earth some new little Stars. They were only Daisies on the ground, but Mother Moon changed them into Stars in the sky.

SEPTEMBER IS BLACKBERRY TIME



Cassiopeia on Her Celestial Throne

By the C N Astronomer

HIGH in the north-east sky there may now be seen a very distinctive group of fairly bright stars, five of them appearing to be arranged as a W. These are the chief stars of the constellation of Cassiopeia. She was a mythological Queen and mother of Andromeda, being always represented as sitting on a throne.

It will be seen from the star-map that the star Kappa converts the W into an outline of a throne, but the throne, and therefore the Queen, are presented upside down in the northern sky. Six months hence, however, this group of stars will be almost overhead in the north-west of an evening, and then Queen Cassiopeia will appear the right way up. In the summer evenings these stars were low, the throne then being on its back. Thus this group of stars is always visible, like the popular Plough. Cassiopeia and the Plough are always on opposite sides of the Northern Sky as they swing round the Celestial Pole, which is now represented by the Pole Star.

Cassiopeia was not always presented in these undignified positions, for some thousands of years ago she appeared to rise right way up in the north-east, then passed well to the south of overhead, and finally set right way up in the north-west.

The Pole Star of those times, 5000 years ago and over, was Thuban, or Alpha Draconis; so we have definite evidence for the great antiquity of Queen Cassiopeia by her inversion through the *Precession of the Equinoxes*, explained in an earlier article.

The chief stars of Cassiopeia are of interest. Alpha the brightest, or Schedar, is a great sun radiating at least 200 times more light and heat than our Sun, but from a distance of about 10,300,000 times farther away, or some 160 light-years' journey; it is, however, approaching us at the rate of about 580 miles a minute. Beta is but 46 light-years distant, and radiates about 20 times more light than our Sun, while Delta is about 112 light years' distance from us.

Gamma is of particular interest, because during recent years it has been seen to become much brighter, even exceeding Schedar in brilliance. This great sun appears to be situated amid a vast nebula of helium and hydrogen which seems to have been lit up by the great outbursts on Gamma. The whole scene is about 150 light-years distant. The star Epsilon is the most distant, being about 1000 light-years' journey away, and so must be a "giant" sun.

Eta is the nearest of them all and 18½ light-years distant. It is composed of two suns, the larger yellowish and the other greenish in hue. They average 5115 million miles apart, the central and larger sun being very similar to our Sun and about the same size. G. F. M.



Snapshots at the Tower

A party of Swedish Lotta girls—an organisation similar to our Girl Guides—have been spending a camping holiday in England, together with girls from Belgium and Holland. During a visit to the Tower of London one of the Warders obligingly posed for the Lottas with cameras.

CRICKET—CLOSE OF PLAY

By the C N Sportsman

THE last ball has been bowled and stumps have been drawn on the county cricket season, one full of interesting games, despite the rain. Lovers of cricket rallied in force, and attendances were very good.

As expected, Yorkshire retained the championship, and are champions for the 22nd time. The Yorkshiremen had a habit of winning their matches in two days, on many occasions with an innings to spare. Yet they did not always have matters their own way, as in the match with Sussex, which obtained only 91 runs in the first innings, and then got Yorkshire out for 82; the champions, however, won the match—and the championship. On an earlier occasion Yorkshire had to get 88 to beat Worcester, but nine wickets were lost before the winning hit was made! But it was Hampshire which humbled them, beating the champions decisively, by ten wickets. Earlier in the season the same county skittled Yorkshire out for 69.

Lancashire and Middlesex were the only sides to threaten Yorkshire's position, but Somerset proved the surprise team of the season, and grand displays took them rapidly up the table.

All the county teams had some unusual incident to recall, but Glamorgan seems to have been concerned with several. The

Welsh side beat Somerset in a game of freak declarations, which were later to be frowned upon by the M.C.C. Glamorgan dismissed Sussex for only 35, the lowest score of the season; and when beaten by Northants gave that county their first win since 1939, and only their second since 1935!

Many players made their first appearance in county cricket memorable. Certainly M. W. Walford will remember his first game for Somerset with pride—he made a century against the Indians. So, too, will Tilley of Leicester, and Dodds of Essex, who took wickets with the first balls they bowled in county cricket.

In direct contrast to them was the performance of 45-year-old Tom Goddard, in his 24th season with Gloucester, who was the first to get 100 wickets, including 13 in a remarkable match at Peterborough, when 30 wickets fell in one day, and there were 11 ducks! The great double of taking 100 wickets and getting 1000 runs was made by Charlie Howorth of Worcester, for the second time in his career.

Taking the season all round, we have seen cricket at its best. Now stumps have been drawn, but the game still goes on, for the efforts of our Test men in Australia will keep alive the game for us during the long dark months ahead.

A Hero Goes Home

IN Luxembourg the other day there was a strange celebration of the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Crécy.

The story of the battle was told in the C N two weeks ago, but no mention was made of one of Edward the Third's opponents, King John of Bohemia (now part of Czechoslovakia). John, who was also Count of Luxembourg, went into battle with his great friend the French King Philip the Sixth. Being blind, and determined not to miss the fight, it is said that John had his horse chained between those of two of his knights.

John's bravery led to his being slain in the battle, and after-

wards his body was returned to his friends by Edward the Third. It used to be said that Edward kept Blind John's crest of three ostrich feathers and his motto Ich Dien (I Serve) for his own son, the Black Prince; but this may be only legendary. Anyway, the crest and motto have been used down to our time by the Prince of Wales.

Since that day in 1346 King John's body has known many a resting-place, but on the eve of the 600th anniversary of his death it was laid to rest in his native Luxembourg with due and impressive ceremony in which the Czechoslovakian, French, and Luxembourg Governments were represented.

Stitch, Stitch, Stitch —by Machine

POOR sewing-women of earlier days had their mournful anthem in Hood's Song of the Shirt. Their successors, more fortunate, have their unofficial saint, Elias Howe, with September 10 as his red letter day in the calendar. For he was the real father of the sewing machine, and it was on September 10, 1846, that he patented his invention.

Sewing machines have added immensely to the comfort and convenience of the housewife; they have enriched the world with vast industries, in ready-made clothes, in the manufacture of gloves, shoes, saddlery, and all manner of leather-work, in carpet-making, and in the stitching of every form of textile. Without the machine we could not have clothed, shod, or "tented" our Forces in the two World Wars. Yet the history of the invention is strewn with tragedy. Howe, with his pre-eminent invention, had predecessors and rivals almost his equal in talent and endeavour whom their efforts brought to poverty.

Apart from the American, Walter Hunt, who in several details anticipated Howe but, owing to neglect to patent, gained no profit, the saddest case was that of the French inventor, Barthélemy Thimmonier, of St Etienne. A poor tailor, he devised a sort of crochet machine, which was later so improved that, five years before Howe's patent, he had 80 machines at work making uni-



forms for the French army. But France, like an earlier England, had its machine-wreckers, and in 1841 a mob smashed his plant and all but murdered him. Undaunted, he set to work again, but was ruined by the political upheaval of 1848, and although his machine, with its English patent, was shown at our Great Exhibition of 1851, he died six years later in dire poverty.

Elias Howe, born at Spencer, Massachusetts, in 1819, began life in a cotton factory. Striving hard to support his wife and little family, he gave every spare moment to labour and experiment on his invention. Baffled again and again by the shape and function of the needle, which he thought must have its eye in the heel, he dreamed one night that savages were pursuing him, armed with spears that were pierced through the head. Waking, he rushed off to his workshop and made a needle with its eye at the point. This, coupled with his shuttle, solved his problem.

Forthwith, he sewed all the seams of the two suits he possessed, and, on that September day, exactly a century ago, took out his patent.

His invention attracting no attention in America, he came to London, having sold the English patent-rights for £250 to a corset-maker. But so little did he succeed here that, borrowing the money for a steerage passage home, he returned to America, to find his young wife dying of tuberculosis and starvation. His patent rights having been widely infringed while he and his family famished, he brought a series of law actions, with the result that ultimately every machine in the world embodying his master patent had to pay him a royalty.

He died, a very wealthy man, at Brooklyn, in 1867, the year of the coming-of-age of the machine that has since caused countless millions of women and workers to call his name blessed.

WEDDINGS WERE IN THE AIR

ON a Sunday not long ago, the devastated area between St Paul's and the Mansion House, London, was invaded by swarms of flying ants.

These little creatures were celebrating countless ants' weddings, for when the air is still and sultry, as it was on that particular day, the young "queens" and the young male "drones" fly from their city and form a small cloud high in the air. The wingless workers leave the nest, too, as though to give the bridal party a good send-off.

Unhappily for the wedded couples, many if not most of them fall a prey to the birds of the neighbourhood. The few who survive have their wings shorn off by the workers and return with them to their wonderful cities beneath the anthills.

APPLE-PICKING AT CHRISTMAS

SOME trees are now sprayed with chemicals to prevent fruit from dropping before it is ripe, and it is even said that growers could, if they wished, postpone apple-picking until Christmas.

One of the synthetic chemicals known as plant hormones was being used to encourage the rooting of cuttings when an observer noticed that the cuttings which had been treated did not lose their leaves. Experiments showed that this unexpected result was not accidental but was caused by the action of the chemical on the stage of growth which causes both leaves and fruit to drop.

At a certain time (when the fruit is ripe or, in the case of deciduous trees, in autumn) what is known as an "abscission layer" forms in plants. This layer causes a weakness in the stem, and the leaf or fruit drops. Sometimes the abscission layer forms too quickly, and the fruit drops before it is ripe, leading to much wastage.

It is to counter this over-ready forming of the abscission layer that alpha naphthalene acetic acid and other chemicals are used.

LOYAL ULSTER

Northern Ireland, by Hugh Shearman (His Majesty's Stationery Office, Belfast, 1s).

It is a pleasure to give a welcome to this booklet for all too little do the people of this island know of Northern Ireland, though it is a lovely and certainly no inconsiderable area of the Motherland.

The author has set out to inform old friends of Northern Ireland and make new ones for it; and within the small compass of some 32 pages he gives an admirable summary of its rugged physical character; its history from early Christian times to its breakaway from the Free State and its continued close association with the Commonwealth; and its government, resources, and industries. Maps and photographs round off an excellent miniature of a very beautiful and important corner of the United Kingdom.

A Lucky Thirteen

MENTION in the CN of the Eccles clock designed to strike 13 has reminded a reader of the story of a sentry at Windsor Castle, in the reign of William and Mary, who was sentenced to death for sleeping at his post.

The sentry declared he was awake, and distinctly heard "Great Tom" at Westminster strike 13, instead of 12, at midnight. In the perfect stillness of the night in those days, with an east wind, it was possible to hear the Westminster bell at Windsor; and, as the sentry's statement that 13 was struck at midnight was corroborated by many people, he was pardoned.

And on leaving the Army he went to London to live in Aldersgate Street, dying there in 1770, aged 102.

"Great Tom" was in a tower which stood where many years later the tower which contains "Big Ben" was erected. This bell was later presented to St Paul's Cathedral, where it still strikes the hours.

A Berkshire Jewel

ONE of the most glorious of English homes, Ockwells Manor, near Bray in Berkshire, is to belong to the National Trust on the death of its owner, Sir Edward Barry.

Built between 1442 and 1466, Ockwells is one of the richest timbered houses in England, with its warm, mellow brick set against the green of the park.

Ockwells has seen the coming and going of great periods in English history, and to its lovely face time has been kind and pleasant. Sir John Norreys, who built it, planned it fifty years before Columbus discovered America. Round it still stand the barn, the stables, the yards, the cattle sheds, the priest's chamber—a mingling of buildings and purposes which show that Ockwells has always been a home and a place of industry.

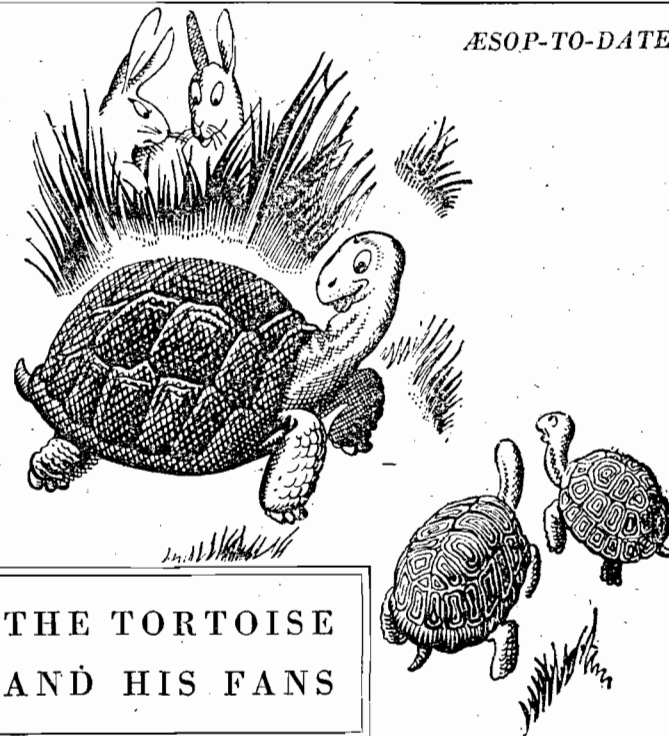
The house with its magnificent gables and chimneys was built from great oaks cut from the Royal Park at Windsor, and its brickwork is so deftly done that one of its owners, Sir Stephen Leach, had every brick pulled out and laid on the grass and then replaced after some of the timber had been renewed. Ockwells' greatest glory is its hall.

round which are the coats of arms of families which fought in the Wars of the Roses. That hall was already a century old when Elizabeth came to the throne. Its long table is 23 feet long, two feet wide, and two and a half inches thick. Its top is cut and scored by knives of a generation of farm men who have cut their bread and cheese on its bare boards.

Round about the 1850's Ockwells was a farmhouse. Sacks of grain were stored in the hall and potatoes in the gallery, and men slept in the dining-room. But its loveliness withstood all the rough handling of those years until in our own time the Barry family bought the old house and restored it.

Eight sovereigns of England have come to see Ockwells, and now its glory passes to the people of England—a precious possession of the past, but still radiant in the present because it is loved and lived in not as a museum but as an Englishman's home.

ÆSOP-TO-DATE



THE TORTOISE AND HIS FANS

The Tortoise who outraced the Hare in the well-known Fable was one day asked by some young tortoises to tell them the story of his famous victory. "Do not be misled, my juvenile friends," said the old fellow. "The Hare is an impetuous creature whose only fault is his impulsiveness. The secret of true success is to hurry slowly. Thus you will always get to your goal, and usually in advance of the over-eager."

The Moral of this Savings Fable is:

It's not a very good idea to rush out and spend your Savings. Later on there'll be more exciting things in the shops. And if you go on Saving, you'll have all the more money to spend on them. So, whenever you can, buy 6d., 2/6, or 5/-

NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS

Issued by the National Savings Committee



Mummy
knows what
helps my
tummy!

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MAGNESIA'

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Jacko's Crash Landing



JACKO was keen to see the first football match of the season. He found a lamp-post close to the ground and, went up it like a—Jacko. Soon he heard a gruff voice saying: "Now then, come down there!" Jacko recognised the stern tones of Constable Monkeyman and, getting in a panic, he slid down smack on top of Monkeyman's helmet, squashing it over his eyes. The worthy constable was distinctly displeased.

ELUSIVE

"TRYING to catch the train, sir?" grinned the station porter as a passenger tore down the platform and tried to open a carriage door, only to have it wrenched from his hand and be sent sprawling by the gathering speed of the train.

"Well, I did catch it," he panted in reply, "but it got away again!"

A Novel Competition

Cut out of old magazines and papers pictures of different things which would illustrate a well-known fairy story or nursery rhyme. Stick these, haphazard, on a large sheet of paper and write the title at the top.

Let your guests look at the picture for one minute, then cover it up and ask them to write down all the separate things shown.

It is a good idea to leave out some of the best-known items—for instance, in choosing Little Red Riding Hood, put a cloak without a hood and forget the basket or grandmother's spectacles.

GROW-TESTQUE

THERE was a tall laddie of Crewe,
Who taller and still taller grew,
Till, looking around
At the landscape, he found
From his height he'd a good
bird's-eye view.

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VICTORIA WORKS, BIRMINGHAM

The BRAN TUB

Perfect Table Manners

TEACHER: Do we eat the flesh of the whale, Geoffrey?

Yes.

And what do we do with the bones?

Leave them on the side of the plate.

SEW EASY

WHEN mother needs a new peg bag, make her a peg apron instead. Any material would do, but if you have to buy, American cloth or plastic would be nicer.

Make a bag—semicircular because it is easier to get the pegs out—as big as your piece of material will allow, and attach strings long enough to tie round mother's waist. Give each of these a loop at the end, then, when not in use, the apron can be hung up with pegs and clothes line in as well.

FACTS ABOUT JAMAICA

A BRITISH island in the West Indies, Jamaica is 144 miles long and 49 miles at its greatest breadth and has an area of 4404 square miles. Population, 1,237,063, of whom 14,793 are classed as whites, 216,250 as coloured, 965,944 as black, 21,396 as East Indian, and 6894 as Chinese. Capital, Kingston, population, 109,056. Jamaica is ruled by a Governor assisted by a House of Representatives of 32 elected members, a Legislative Council of 15 members, and an Executive Council of 10.

Chief products: sugar, rum, bananas, citrus pulp, pimento, coffee, ginger, cocoa, and coconuts.

Jamaica was discovered by Columbus in 1494 and has been British since 1655.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Saturn is low in the east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at half-past nine on the evening of Wednesday, September 11.



The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, September 11, to Tuesday, September 17

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Portrait of the Mayor—Toytown story. 5.35 Trevor Anthony (songs). Scottish, 5.55 Old Watty's Tales.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Another "Proud Peru" story. 5.15 The Black Abbot (Part 4). Welsh, 5.30 Songs for Young and Old.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Eighty-Three Stones—a Cotswold play; Harvesting; Helena Cook and Ethel Williams (songs).

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Pool of London—descriptive talk by H. V. Morton and Uncle Mac. N. Ireland, 5.0 Mumbudget (Part 4). Beginners, Please—a talk to young actors; Young Artists.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Swaledale—a feature programme.

MONDAY, 5.0 Mavis Bennett's Juvenile Songsters; Samuel Shark and the Little Old Man; Learning to be a Ballet Dancer. Scottish, 5.0 Very Young Nursery Rhymes; The Hutman in Hut-country news; Matthew Nisbet sings songs about animals. 5.30 Round the Zoo at Corstorphine.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Things to Make and Do—Autumn Collections; The Venetian—a story; Young Artists. 5.40 The Sports Coach reviews the season's cricket, tennis, and athletics. Midland, 5.0 We Could Not Leave Dinah (Part 4). Northern Ireland, 5.0 Mumbudget (Part 5); Beginners Please—second talk to young actors; Shakespearean songs. Scottish, 5.0 Mrs Benny Again; Bob-tail's Adventures; The Sea Shell.

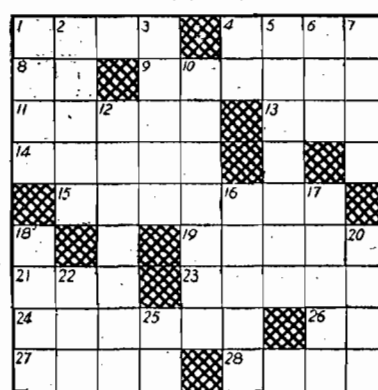
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 To go by water. 4 To press forward. 8 French for and. 9 Concurrence. 11 Relating to morals. 13 A play on words of similar sound but different meaning. 14 A day by day record. 15 Holds water. 19 Disliked. 21 To knock. 23 A literary composition. 24 Wireless valve with three electrodes. 26 Royal Engineers. 27 Despatched. 28 Girl.

Reading Down. 1 Grain. 2 A garret. 3 Wild creatures' resting-places. 4 You and me. 5 Accounts. 6 South African antelope. 7 Well-known volcano. 10 Mowed. 12 Keeps tresses tidy. 16 Supports an artist's canvas. 17 Approaches. 18 Painting, sculpture, and music. 20 Change colours. 22 The unit of French square measure. 25 Old Testament.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, September 14, 1946



Only the Truth

A FARMER discovered his new hand fast asleep in the hay-loft.

"Wake up!" he cried. "You told me when I engaged you that you never got tired."

"Quite right—you see, I always take care to have sufficient rest."

TONGUE TWISTER

SHE sees a ship in sight of the sea shore.

THE HEIRLOOM

A NECKLACE of 33 stones, a family heirloom, was worth £6500, the centre jewel being the largest and most valuable.

The stones were so graduated that on one side each stone from the clasp to the centre was worth £10 more than the previous one, and on the other side the increase in value was £15 a jewel.

How much was the centre stone worth? Answer next week

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